

May 18, 2012

Weekly Views

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) staff, retirees, and special guests, including Commissioner Bruce Lemmon, gathered to celebrate WVCF's 20 years of public service during Correctional Employees Week! Superintendent Dick Brown, among the first to join the facility as an Officer 20 years ago, paid tribute to his correctional professionals, thanking them not only for their commitment to public safety but for their diligence in preparing offenders for a successful return to society.

Mixed Up Mutts, Inc hosted their 6th Annual Dog Walk to benefit the Prison Tails program at Westville Correctional Facility. The event, held at Bluhm Co. Park in Westville, IN, featured four Prison

Tails dog handlers and their adoptable dogs, raffles, food, games, and music. This fundraiser raised over \$1200 for the program.

A film crew from Towers Production in Chicago completed 13 weeks of filming at the Indianapolis Parole Office. The 13-episode documentary series, *Parole Diaries*, is expected to air this fall. Staff enjoyed the experience and look forward to seeing the final product.

Representatives from the Illinois Department of Correction toured Putnamville Correctional Facility's (PCF) Prison Greyhound Program with hopes of modeling the program at one of their facilities. Superintendent Stanley Knight, Prison Greyhound Vice President Jeff Loudon, and Prison Greyhound Facility Director Edward Joslyn relayed the day to day operations, classroom instruction, care and adoption of the dogs. The three greyhounds arrived at the facility in March for a three month rehabilitation program from the race track to becoming an adoptable pet. The group also visited the Equine Management program to learn more about the day to day operations, classroom instruction, care and adoption of the horses.

Branchville Correctional Facility's PLUS program made 135 quilts and donated them to families affected by the tornado which destroyed the town of Henryville. Offenders sewed the quilts to gain hours for the community service requirement of the PLUS Program.

IDOC Central Office celebrated Correctional Employees Week with staff enjoying various events planned Central Office's FISH/Employee Appreciation Committee. The week was full of fun activities which included a sign language class, staff cookout, corn hole tournament, ice cream truck, Minute-to-win-it games, and a healthy lunch pitch-in and fitness walk. Staff won prizes for playing games, and everyone who participated in an event during the week was entered into a prize drawing.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted several Employee Appreciation Activities as an expression of thanks for the tremendous job employees do on a daily basis to promote public safety. Festivities included a cook out, facility tours for employee's families, and a Nutraloaf eating contest between Assistant Superintendents Bruce Helming and Duane Alsip that raised \$424 in staff donations. The proceeds from the competition will be used to purchase school supplies for employees' children and grandchildren.

Miami Correctional Facility honored several employees during Correctional Employee Appreciation Week, including four people for Employee of the Year. Those named are: Employee of the Year (non-custody) Tami Clothier, Operations Secretary, and Casie Klepinger, Security Threat Group Coordinator; Correctional Officer of the Year, Officer Jason Miles; and Supervisor of the Year, Lt. Christopher Ertel. More than 100 people received years of service pins for 5, 10, 15 and 45 years as well as Perfect Attendance awards.

In celebration of Correctional Employees Week, staff at the Putnamville Correctional Facility participated in various activities organized by the facility's Employee Recognition Committee including a fitness walk, corn hole tournaments, blood drive, ice cream social, softball game, dunk tank, K-9 demonstration, 8th annual motorcycle run, picnics and luncheons. During an employee appreciation ceremony, Superintendent Stanley Knight expressed his appreciation of staff's hard work and commitment and presented Employee of the Quarter/Year awards to Captain Mike Mecila, Lieutenant Brian Chalfin, Accountant Jenny Alex and Case Manager David Mikles. In attendance from Central Office were Executive Director James Basinger, Director Kevin Orme, and Executive Director Jerry Vance.

The Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF) celebrated Correctional Employee Week with numerous activities for staff to participate in which included a cook out, bowling, and a softball game. The week kicked-off with a staff breakfast and chair massages from Health 1st. CIF staff attended a staff assembly where over \$1000 dollars in prizes were given away. Several guests also visited the facility throughout the week. Andy Conrad from Phoenix University set up a booth for staff to visit. Tom Hanlon, Director of Program Review, Scott Brenneke, Director of Operation Support, Craig Hanks, Director of Mental Health and retired Superintendent Jack Duckworth served as this year's judges for the annual Taste of CIF. The week will conclude on Saturday with CIF's 1st Annual Motorcycle Ride and Picnic.

The first Father's Traveling Word DVD story book reading was recorded at the Indiana State Prison. The offenders read bed time stories which were recorded on a DVD to be sent to their children.

Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility Superintendent Steven H. Keever proudly announces that IREF passed the American Correctional Association One-Year Program Review, earning 100% on mandatory standards and 99.5% on non-mandatory Standards with only one Standard in non-compliance.